

Postmarks *Compiled by SSG Alberto Betancourt*

From Army Posts Around the World

PFC J. Wilson Guthrie



1LT Laurie Green, a platoon leader with the 92nd Engineer Battalion, helps an Afghan child try on a new coat donated by schoolchildren in Green's hometown of Morehead City, N.C.

Bagram, Afghanistan

From Cries to Laughter at Bagram Airfield

SPANISH and American doctors at Afghanistan's Bagram Airfield are replacing children's cries with laughter.

Lt. Col. Jose Peralba, a Spanish doctor, and Dr. (MAJ) Gerard Curran from the 261st Medical Battalion at Fort Bragg, N.C., run a clinic that treats children from a village just beyond the airfield's perimeter.

"I'm very happy to be here doing my job," said Curran, Task Force Bagram's medical chief. "Most of the medical problems we handle are simple things, such as ear infections. It makes me feel good to know that the medicines we provide will help these children."

Children ranging in age from one month to 12 years are watched closely by their veiled mothers as they wait outside

mud-brick walls to see the doctors.

The medicines the physicians prescribe for the children were bought with money donated by soldiers in Afghanistan, Curran said.

"Those soldiers will never know the full impact their acts of kindness are having," he said.

Besides medicine, the team provides the children some defense against Afghanistan's bitter winter weather.

1LT Laurie Green, a platoon leader with Company B, 92nd Engineer Bn., from Fort Stewart, Ga., fits each child with a new coat before the family leaves the compound.

Students from St. Egbert's Catholic School in Morehead City, N.C., donated the coats. Green's mother, a kindergarten and art teacher at the school, shipped several boxes of coats to Afghanistan.

"Laurie mentioned the idea during one of our phone con-

versations," Mrs. Green said. "Helping the Afghan children has made the war in Afghanistan 'real' for our students."

Peralba said a child's smile is very rewarding.

"Hopefully, these children will remember that the coalition

forces were kind and good to them," he said. — CPT Tom Bryant, ARCENT Kuwait Public Affairs Office

Okinawa, Japan

Wartime Album Returned

A PHOTO album taken from Okinawa 56 years ago has been returned to the Japanese family that originally owned it.

Paul Barger had often thought about the photo album's yellowing pages and imagined what Kensho Higa, whose named appeared inside, might have been like. Barger also often thought about returning the album to him or his family.

In April 1945 then-CPL Barger, of Battery D, 504th Anti-Aircraft Artillery Battalion, was part of the American invasion force that landed on Okinawa. During the battle for the island he came upon a ruined house, where he found the album.

The young soldier took the album as a souvenir, stuck it in a bag, then forgot about it. The "souvenir" lay in his mother's cedar chest for decades.

PFC J. Wilson Guthrie



Dr. (MAJ) Gerard Curran, Task Force Bagram's medical officer, examines an Afghan baby in the clinic.



Kazuo Yoshida (right) explains to MG Alan Johnson through interpreter Keiko McPherson the importance of the photo album.

"Like other World War II veterans, I tried to forget about the war and everything connected to it," Barger said. "But I recently started thinking about the album again. It has no value to me, but I thought it might be treasured by the owner or the family of those pictured in the album."

Cindy Bell, Barger's daughter, began an Internet search to locate the album's owner. She also requested the help of personnel at the U.S. Army, Japan, Public Affairs Office.

Initially, no one could identify the family in the photos. However, further research revealed that Higa was an Okinawa City doctor who had served with the Japanese army. He was killed during the war and was survived by his wife and five children.

Officials at the Yomitan village ward office invited Kazuo Yoshida, Higa's eldest son, to

view several of the scanned and printed images from the album to verify whether the photos were of his family. One was a portrait of Yoshida and his brother, along with their mother, nanny and nurse. The outfits they wore helped identify the people in the photos.

"I'm delighted to be able to see what my father looked like when he was young," said Itsuko Matayoshi, Higa's eldest daughter, who didn't remember her father because she was only four years old when he died.

"I'm looking forward to putting all the photos back in one album," Kazuo said.

"But first I will place this album on the family altar and tell my late parents about how we got it. I'll never forget this special day," he said. — SGT Annette B. Andrews, USARJ PAO



This 1945 photo of Yoshida, his two siblings and his aunt is one of 310 pictures in the 79-page album.

Carlos Bongioanni (both)

Camp Casey, Korea

Center Honors Sept. 11 Victim

SIX months after the Sept. 11 crash of a jetliner into the Pentagon, the 2nd Infantry Division dedicated the LTG Timothy J. Maude Soldier Support Center to honor the highest-ranking soldier killed in the attack. Maude was the Army's assistant deputy chief of staff for personnel.

"He had a passion for taking care of soldiers," said his widow, Teri Maude. "That was his sole purpose in the Army."

Words to that effect are inscribed on his tombstone, she said. She and her daughters, Karen and Kathi, established a scholarship fund for soldiers in Maude's name.

MG Russel Honoré, commanding general of the 2nd Inf. Div., said it was an honor to name the center in memory of a soldier who spent his life taking care of others.

"May this building that now bears his name forever inspire and remind those who walk its halls that this is a place where soldiers' needs are attended to," Honoré said. — MSG Dave Meloncon, 2nd ID PAO



MG Russel L. Honoré and Teresa C. Maude unveil a picture of the late LTG Timothy J. Maude.

Heather Hilton